

# YOUR FOREST YOUR ADVENTURE

Spring 2009 • VOL 4 • NO 1



## Jefferson Memorial Forest

11311 Mitchell Hill Road  
PO Box 467  
Fairdale, KY  
40118  
502/368-5404

www.memorialforest.com  
www.metro-parks.org  
forest@louisvilleky.gov  
parks@louisvilleky.gov

### Welcome Center

Monday-Saturday  
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Sunday/Holidays  
10 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Welcome Center  
is your destination  
for maps, gift items,  
program reservations,  
camping reservations,  
permits and  
Forest information.

### Directions

From I-65 south, take the  
Gene Snyder Freeway (I-265)  
west and exit at New Cut Road.  
Turn left, go about one mile,  
and turn right onto  
Mitchell Hill Road.  
Follow the signs to the Forest.

### Mission Statement

The mission of  
Louisville Metro Parks  
is to create  
a City of Parks  
and enhance the  
quality of life for  
citizens of Louisville Metro  
by maintaining and acquiring  
attractive, vibrant parks  
and offering safe, diverse  
recreation programs, and  
protecting these lands  
and resources for  
future generations.

## FOREST ADAPTS TO EXISTING BUDGET REALITIES

Metro Parks, like other Metro agencies, is doing its part to help Louisville Metro Government address the current budget deficit caused by the faltering national economy. We at the Jefferson Memorial Forest are likewise making necessary adjustments to allow us to maintain our current level of service. At the same time, we are heeding Mayor Jerry Abramson's call to use this period of difficulty to plan and prepare for the brighter days that we know lie ahead.

We share the disappointment of park users across the community that Otter Creek Park had to close its doors. Otter Creek Park possessed natural features and facilities not found anywhere else in our system. We are glad that Otter Creek's staff has found employment elsewhere in Metro Parks and we are fortunate that two of those employees (Bryan Lewis and Vickie Howser) have found a home at the Forest and will be filling two of the Forest's four vacant positions affected by the budget cuts.

As a result we are taking this opportunity to reorganize our operation in a way that prepares us for future success. The main goals of this reorganization are to keep our staffing dedicated to environmental education and outdoor adventure programming near its previous level; to allow us to continue to focus on improving our volunteer program; to create a leadership position dedicated to trail and maintenance issues; and to allow us to focus the necessary effort towards promoting the Forest's recently-completed master plan.

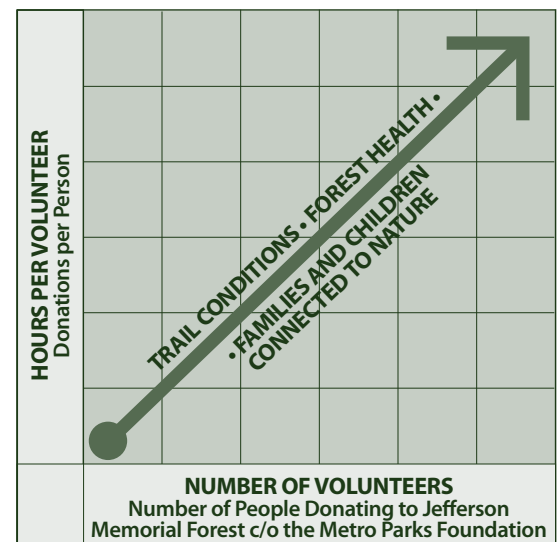
With the addition of such quality staff as Bryan and Vicki, we feel we can accomplish these goals. Bryan oversees park maintenance, trails, campgrounds and rental facilities, assuring the park-user experience is a good one. Vicki is responsible for daily operation of the Welcome Center, a role she held at Otter Creek Park. Kathryn Lynn, hired in the fall as our permanent part-time recreation coordinator to coordinate our volunteer program, has assumed the duties of "Naturalist" on our program staff. And finally, Sherry Wright, previously responsible for the Welcome Center, has assumed full time volunteer coordination duties.

Despite the budget realities, we remain committed to developing the staff composition necessary to meet our mission. Although somewhat delayed in this effort, we continue to strive to develop permanent, professionally-trained crews to manage our system of over 60 miles of hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian trails and improve the thousands of acres under our care that are under increasing pressure from exotic plant infestations, encroachment, severe storms and other damage.

Fortunately, our efforts over the past two years to secure grant funding, develop partnerships, and expand our volunteer program are paying dividends today, and as a result 2009 will see continued steady improvement despite the current budget crisis. With your continued support we look forward to moving past this current rough patch and continuing our progressive push forward.

*Bennett Knox, Parks Administrator*

## Natural Areas Economics: The Value of Your Help!





## NATURE NOTES

For all you nature nuts, let's test your knowledge over some backyard mammals that we all know by sight, but might not fully appreciate. These guys have some remarkable and amazing facts about them. I mean, it takes some pretty nifty adaptive skills to be able to live in our neck of the suburbs. So get your pencils out, it's time for a quick quiz! No calculators needed...

- 1) Which North American furry critter, during learning tests conducted by Harvard University, ranked higher than dogs on intelligence?
- 2) Which southeast native mammal gives birth just 13 days after conception?
- 3) Which roadside animal is more naturally resistant to rabies than any other mammal?
- 4) Which backyard critter is a member of Earth's oldest surviving mammal family, with fossils showing they walked with dinosaurs?
- 5) Which dumpster diver shows partial or total immunity to the venom of rattlesnakes and cottonmouths from birth?

**DONE!** How do you think you did? Think those hours of watching Animal Planet came in handy? Let's review the answer key. If you answered opossum to all the above, you are correct! That's right, that oversized rat that is a staple on our roadsides is one amazing, and often under appreciated, animal!

Now I have always been a fan of the opossum, probably because they reminded me of the rodents of unusual size in the movie *The Princess Bride*. After proudly bringing one home to my mother, however, I also understand not everyone shares my enthusiasm. I'm here to change that and show you just how incredible these nocturnal mammals can be. They may not be winning any beauty contests, but what they lack in physical beauty they make up for in biological feats.

Take the opossums' reproductive capabilities for instance. After just 13 days

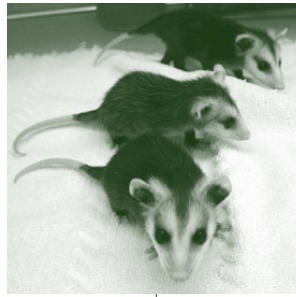


of gestation, the opossum gives birth to between 8 and 13 young. The opossum, being a marsupial like a kangaroo, gives birth to very underdeveloped young that are about 2 grams, or the size of a honeybee. These petite newborns find their way from the birth canal to the pouch and attach to the teat, all without the luxury of sight or aid from their mother. Once inside the pouch, the young attach to one of the 13 nipples inside, with 12 nipples in a circle and one in the middle. Odd, but true. After 2 months of development inside the pouch, young will wander outside the protection of the pouch but will continue to stay with their mother. At approximately 3 months of age, young opossums become independent and go off on their own.

Fully developed, opossums have some of the most unique adaptations of any animal. With 50 teeth and overdeveloped jaw muscles, they can eat just about anything. The most naturally omnivorous mammal on record, they range in diet from snails to fruit to small animals to all those goodies your family throws out in the garbage. With this diversity in required food source, the opossum has proven to be very efficient at adjusting to changes in its environment and has even begun expanding its range throughout the United States thanks to our supply of abundant food placed thoughtfully curbside. Pretty soon citizens coast to coast will be able to enjoy these critters as much as we do in the south.

That hairless tail that makes them oddly similar to a rat deserves a little more recognition than it currently receives.

What other animal could you see in your backyard carrying sticks and leaves with their tails or hanging from a tree like a monkey? Those prehensile appendages along with opposable thumbs provide the opossum with remarkable climbing abilities, allowing them to move easily through tree limbs. Their signature opposable thumb, present on their hind



feet, is a distinguishing feature when trying to identify tracks on the forest floor. Such developed hands and forearms do slow the opossums' run down considerably however, making them vulnerable to predators when grounded.

Good thing their defense system rivals that of North Korea. When frightened or cornered, these normally passive animals will bare their teeth and raise their fur to deter attacks. Using their 50 teeth and powerful jaws, opossums can inflict serious injuries when necessary. If further provoked, opossums, well, play opossum and feign death. An opossum will lie motionless, secreting a decay smell to make themselves less appealing to potential predators. Opossums will remain in this state until the antagonist has left.

Internal protection is also covered in the opossum arsenal. Opossums are the most resistant to rabies of any mammal and are born with either partial or total immunity to several species of pit viper venom, such as rattlesnakes. Numerous prestigious universities, scientists, and federal governments are studying the complex immune systems of opossums to find clues into disease prevention and immune disorder treatment in humans. So in the not too distant future you may be receiving your pig heart valve transplant, followed by opossum immune booster injections. Appetizing.



So from surviving dinosaurs to snake bites to curing immune disorders in humans, have I made you a fan of these road kill kings? Or if not a fan, are you at least an admirer of the United States' only marsupial? Just think of them as America's own cuddly koala, but with an awesome monkey tail and a less picky palate.





*Waverly Park*

## NATURAL AREAS NEWS

### WAVERLY PARK UPDATE

Work implementing the master plan improvements at Waverly Park is approximately 90 percent complete. The walking path around the lake, including the four associated bridges and designated fishing spots, has been constructed and all paving work to expand the number of available parking spaces has been completed. Construction of the two shelters and the floating fishing pier is also complete. The Natural Areas trail crew under Larry Hilton, naturalist, is working with Kentucky Mountain Bike Association volunteers this winter to make significant headway in overhauling the trail system in the park.

If you are interested in volunteering to assist with this effort, please see the volunteer section in this newsletter. Infrastructure improvements to the park will be completed in time for a June 6 grand opening and trail work is scheduled to be completed over the next two years under an existing Recreational Trails Program grant.

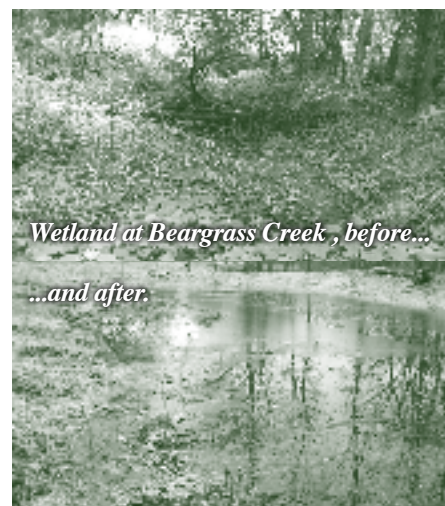
One final note: Metro Parks has had successful discussions with Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, and Waverly Park has already been added to the Fishing in Neighborhoods (FINS) Program starting this spring. The program – already in place at the Jefferson Memorial Forest's Tom Wallace Lake and at Miles Park Lake #4

– supports expanded fishing stocking. If you have not been to Waverly Park in a while, we hope that you make a visit this spring!

### IMPROVING WATER QUALITY: BEARGRASS CREEK

In previous newsletter editions, we've reported on the efforts of volunteers to assist the Natural Areas staff in removing exotic species from the Beargrass Creek Greenway at Irish Hill, at the intersection of Lexington Road and Grinstead Drive. These volunteer events over the past few years have been part of Metro Parks' ongoing efforts to improve the habitat conditions along this urban riparian corridor. As part of this effort, Metro Parks has received funding from MSD to conduct environmental education programming in partnership with Male High School, remove invasive plants and reintroduce native species. Recently, we have worked closely with Phyllis Croce of MSD and Redwing Ecological Services to create a functioning wetland that provides treatment to storm water prior to its discharge into Beargrass Creek.

Prior to this work, the project area was essentially an invasive plant-infested waste area through which storm water from nearby streets and parking lots flowed before being immediately discharged into Beargrass Creek. This project involved creation of earthen berms, construction of a stone flow control structure, and planting of native vegetation. This has transformed the small area into a functioning wetland designed to increase the detention time for storm water flowing into Beargrass Creek. This allows sediments to filter



out and pollutants to be removed from the storm water by native vegetation prior to discharge into the stream. The project is a good example of the types of improvements that can help improve water quality in the Beargrass Creek watershed. We still have much to do in this corridor and we encourage you to consider joining our Land Stewards if you would like volunteer your time to assist in these efforts (please see the Volunteer Section of this newsletter for more information).

### ICE STORM UPDATE

With extreme gratitude we would like to thank all the volunteers and staff who participated in the monumental cleanup following January's ice storm. Volunteers have given hundreds of hours clearing trails and recreation areas, opening sections of the Forest far more quickly than expected. All recreation areas have been reopened, but you may notice quite a few branches along the edges. Crews will be working hard to clean up the edges and get our Forest back in top shape. Most trails have already been reopened. Please check [www.memorialforest.com](http://www.memorialforest.com) for the latest updates.





## THE LAND

How did the recent ice storm affect the Forest? Well, staff and volunteers spent hours clearing debris from trails, but it is impossible for us to remove all debris especially in the interior of the forest, nor would we necessarily want to in all areas. However, the storm has had a severe negative impact in spots similar in type (if not exact scale) to the impact of the 1974 tornado on Cherokee Park. Exotic invasive plants tend to invade areas where openings suddenly occur and the combined effects of last summer's wind storm and this year's ice storm have created a great deal of openings.

While the storm may have a negative impact, we can look on this as an opportunity to witness what new species will emerge. Exotic invasive plants tend to encroach where openings suddenly occur. Controls of these dastardly plants take up most of land management time.

Just what is an exotic invasive plant? Many of these pests were introduced as home landscape plants that escaped from cultivation, for agricultural purposes, or for erosion control. Not all invasive plants are exotics; we also have some natives that take advantage of disturbed areas. Black locust is an example. Invasive species can adapt quickly and reproduce at an astonishing rate, crowding out natives and causing an economic or environmental impact. Because they are in a new environment which lacks natural controls such as insects and diseases, this causes an imbalance in the ecosystem, upsets biodiversity and alters habitat.

There is no one solution. Invasives tend to be unique, and therefore control techniques differ between species. A method that works for one may not work for another. Land managers must have several different weapons in their arsenal. The key is understanding the biology of the species in question. At the Forest, we have identified our most dangerous invaders, which we call "The Dirty Baker's Dozen plus One." Future articles will focus on the biology of these species and what you can do to help fight them.

A new volunteer group, Land Stewards, has been formed to help the Forest combat these invaders. The Stewards meet the first Saturday, second Wednesday and

## WINTER VOLUNTEER NEWS

### FROSTBITE IN THE NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION!

Nothing can stop our amazing volunteer force from furthering their knowledge of environmental education; not sleet, not snow, not 20 below. Well, not 20 below, but it was below freezing! Eligible volunteers and staff participated in an overnight Leave No Trace trainer course December 5 and 6 at the King Property near Floyds Fork Park, becoming certified Leave No Trace trainers. The course was led by Doug and Jessa Davis, with their time being generously funded by The Trail Store. The trainer course is designed for educators, outdoor professionals, guides and agency employees, with participants receiving in-the-field training in the Leave No Trace program, which strives to educate those who enjoy the outdoors about the nature of their recreational impacts as well as techniques to prevent and minimize such impacts.

Volunteers and staff met at the Welcome Center bright and early Friday morning, everyone smiling and excited to begin. After carpooling to the location, participants were immediately immersed in the practices and guidelines of Leave No Trace. Participants put on short plays, gave talks, and used experiential learning techniques to learn about the variety of techniques one can use to minimize the impact on the Forest. Everyone was responsible for setting up their own camp site during the day; Sherry is seen here showing off her Taj Mahal of tents!



The night concluded with banana boats, card games, and the inability to get warm. Again, it was 20 degrees.

Saturday began with everyone thawing out and stepping right back into the training.

Doug and Jessa were sure to incorporate as much information as we could stand, sprinkled with their amazing sense of entertainment and fun. Larry even got in on the fun and made sure we were all aware of the wonders of bathroom breaks in the outdoors. Remember, 200 feet away from any water source!

The training was a huge success with everyone gaining knowledge and certification in the Leave No Trace program, and learning a bit more about themselves and others. The Forest would like to give an enormous thank you to the Trail Store for sponsoring the event, Doug and Jessa Davis who were gracious enough to facilitate the weekend, and to their puppy, Denali, who made sure we had plenty to smile about.



### LAND STEWARDS INAUGURAL MONTH ENORMOUSLY SUCCESSFUL

Jefferson Memorial Forest's newest volunteer program is proving to be all the rage. Carl Suk, Land Manager, has launched this hands-on volunteer program that includes an inaugural class of 10 participants that are coming to the table with some impressive experience, knowledge, and drive. These botanists in action have already contributed an impressive 77.5 hours of service hours in just their first month of action; a chilly November at that! Land Stewards are a focused volunteer group that participates in land management through invasive species patrol and removal, tree plantings, erosion control, prescribed burns, plant identification, and numerous other botany based activities. Volunteers gain an array of plant knowledge and on-the-job training

*continued on back page*





## VOLUNTEERS

### PLEASE JOIN OUR TRAIL TEAM!

Our Trail Team currently patrols and maintains more than 60 miles of trails within the Natural Areas Division of Metro Parks, including Jefferson Memorial Forest and Waverly Park. There are a number of ways in which you can contribute. Individuals as well as groups are welcome to participate in all trail work days. Our oldest trail volunteer group is the Trail Rangers who have historically carried out a number of tasks, primarily at the Forest, including physical trail improvements, invasive species removal, assisting with public programs and providing information to trail users. Recently we've given the Natural Areas program more trails to maintain, and our volunteers have become more specialized. While our Trail Rangers are focusing on trail patrol and light maintenance, a Trail Crew has been developed for individuals who want to focus on trail construction and maintenance. Volunteers are welcome to participate in both.

Other groups whose members are actively supporting trail improvements within the Natural Areas Division include the Kentucky Mountain Bike Association (KyMBA) and the Kentucky Trail Riders Association (KTRA). KyMBA has proven to be quite a force in helping to develop the trail system in Waverly Park, which is designed to accommodate hikers and mountain bikers. KTRA is in the beginning stage of working with Metro Parks to develop a sustainable equestrian/hiking trail system in the Paul Yost section of Jefferson Memorial Forest. At the end of 2008, the Forest received a trail grant that will allow us to redevelop the trail systems of both Waverly and Paul Yost. Our trail volunteers are an integral part of the plan to complete new and realigned trails in Waverly and Paul Yost. For information on these opportunities and to join our Trail Team, please contact Larry Hilton, Naturalist/Trails Supervisor, at 797-5768 (cell) or 361-0119 (office).

### WAVERLY PARK PROJECT DAYS

Anyone interested in improving the trails at Waverly Park is invited to join park staff and the Kentucky Mountain Bike Association for trail work days. Volunteers will gain valuable knowledge on building sustainable trails while getting some physical activity in a beautiful setting. We will meet near the lake at 9 a.m. Gloves, tools, water and energy bars will be provided. Individuals interested in doing trail patrol only are welcome, too. Wear sturdy shoes and dress appropriately for weather conditions. When work at Waverly is complete it will possess a truly first class multi-use trail system open to hiking/mountain biking.

**Saturday, April 18**

**Saturday, May 16**

### JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FOREST/PAUL YOST PROJECT DAYS

Join park staff and the Kentucky Trail Riders Association for a day of trail construction at the Paul Yost section of the Forest (on Holsclaw Hill Road). All volunteers are welcome to participate in a day of realigning the trail system in the hilly forests of Paul Yost. Volunteers will get valuable knowledge on sustainable trail construction and design. Those interested in just trail patrol are welcome to participate, too. Project time is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., but volunteers may work any amount of time. Wear sturdy work shoes and dress appropriately for the weather. Tools, water and work gloves will be provided. When finished, the Paul Yost trail system will accommodate both equestrian users and hikers.

Meet at the Duncan Shelter at Paul Yost for Trail Construction projects on:

**Saturday, April 25**

**Saturday, May 23**

### TRAINING/OUTINGS FOR TRAIL VOLUNTEERS

These dates are set for volunteer development, educational opportunities and social gatherings. Group interest and weather conditions will dictate activities.

Trail Layout and Construction Training - Paul Yost Duncan Shelter:

**Saturday, April 25**

**Saturday, May 23**

### SPECIAL PROJECT DAYS

The following days are set aside for undetermined trail projects. For information on these dates and to join our Trail Team please contact Larry Hilton, Naturalist/Trails Supervisor, at 797-5768 (cell) or 361-0119 (office).

**Saturday, April 11**

**Sunday, April 12**

**Saturday, May 9**

**Sunday, May 10**

*With recent staff changes at the Forest, we thought it was a good time to get everyone together for a staff photo. We regret that Susan Busk, our Welcome Center secretary this past year, left for a position with Louisville Metro Police, and we also sorely miss James Crockett, who made many friends and left wonderful impressions during his service as Naturalist from 2002 to 2008. We wish them both the very best. Join us in welcoming our new staff from Otter Creek, and in thanking our many seasonal employees who are such a big help. We hope to see you again in the coming year!*



*Back Row: Bryan Lewis, Gene Underwood, Corey Smith, Philip Paulley, Jim Waters, Shawn Nevins.  
Middle Row: Katheryn Lynn, Tonya Swan, Matt Blankenship, Larry Hilton, Jerry Waddell.*

*Seated: Bennett Knox, Carl Suk, Vickie Howser, Sherry Wright.  
Gone fishing: Christa Weidner*



# JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FOREST SUMMER CAMPS

## SUMMER ADVENTURES

These camps are for children ages 7 to 12. This day camp provides children an immersion experience in the natural world. They take on the roles of naturalist, scientist, and explorer as they discover new things about the Forest and the creatures that inhabit it. By combining educational activities and learning experiences with traditional summer camp fun, your child will have an educational adventure to remember for a lifetime.

Camp activities include nature study, crafts, science experiments, games, journaling, hikes and animal contact with the Forest's education animals. All campers receive a Forest water bottle. Each session runs for one week. Each day begins promptly at 9 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m.

## FOREST ADVENTURES

Is your child an explorer? Do they crave adventure? They are sure to find it here! Campers explore the trails deep in the Forest, climb our Alpine tower, and learn rappelling skills. They learn skills such as fire and shelter building, and using a map and compass.

## CREATURE TREKKING

Campers explore a variety of habitats and learn about the creatures that call these places home. Campers travel through the Forest, along the forest edge, across fields and meadows, and into streams. Campers will learn what to look for when tracking animals, and what the population of animals can tell us about ourselves and how we affect the world around us.

## AQUATIC HABITATS

Discover the exciting world within a pond, lake, stream and river. Campers explore a lake while canoeing, hike through a Forest to a winding stream, use nets to collect specimens, and view the many tiny creatures they collect on our videoscope. Also, campers are engaged in crafts, journaling and science experiments. Life preservers are provided and trained staff will accompany the campers in a 1:3 ratio for our canoe excursions. Parents are welcome to join their child for canoeing field trips.



## NEW CAMP!

### TIME TRAVELERS – ADVENTURE TO THE PAST AT RIVERSIDE, THE FARNSLEY-MOREMEN LANDING

Travel back in time to discover how Native Americans lived in the forests of Kentucky, go on an archaeological adventure to find real artifacts and travel forward to learn about the people who came after the Native Americans and settled on the banks of the Ohio River. Camp begins at Jefferson Memorial Forest's Horine Reservation for June 29 and 30. Then, drop-off and pick-up will take place at Riverside, Farnsley-Moremén for July 1 and 2. Ages 8 to 11.



## FOREST EXPLORERS

Search for animal tracks, discover the fascinating world of insects, find life in a small scoop of pond water, and hike the trails! Through stories, crafts and hands-on activities, your child will make discoveries about the variety of habitats and the animals living in the Forest. Come explore! Ages 5 to 6; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Registration

Sessions are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Full payment is required at the time of registration. Full payment and completed registration form are required prior to the first day of camp. You will promptly be notified if a session is full or cancelled due to insufficient enrollment. Confirmation will be e-mailed or mailed to you prior to the beginning of camp.

### Payment options and refunds

Price includes all camp supplies, water bottle, t-shirt, and small snack. Registration forms can be mailed with check or credit card information to Jefferson Memorial Forest, P O Box 467, Fairdale, KY 40118. Reservation forms and information packets may be requested by phone, but reservations will not be accepted over the phone. Make checks payable to Jefferson Memorial Forest. Include the session dates that your child is attending on the check. Refunds, less a \$25.00 processing fee, are given only if a cancellation is made in writing at least 2 weeks prior to the first day of camp. If a camp is filled or cancelled, a full refund will be made to you. All camps are subject to maximum and minimum enrollment requirements.



# 2009 Jefferson Memorial Forest Summer Camp Registration

Registration fee must accompany this registration form.

Make checks payable to **Jefferson Memorial Forest**. When registering more than one child, send the information for each child on a separate form. Mail check and registration to:

**Jefferson Memorial Forest • Summer Camp • PO Box 467 • Fairdale, KY 40118**

## **Forest Adventures\***

☐ June 8-12

☐ July 13-17

\$115

## **Creature Trekking\***

☐ June 15-19

☐ July 20-24

\$115

## **Aquatic Habitats\***

☐ June 22-26

☐ July 27-31

\$115

## **Forest Explorers**

☐ July 6-10

[ages 5-6]

\$105

## **NEW CAMP!**

### **Time Travelers:**

### **Adventure to the Past**

☐ June 29-July 2

[ages 8-11]

\$175

*\*The sessions in June repeat in July. Price is per week.*

Child's last name: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's first name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: ☐ M / ☐ F Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check your child's T-shirt size: ☐ XS ☐ S ☐ M ☐ L ☐ XL

Is there a friend/sibling you would like placed with your child? \_\_\_\_\_

*This cannot be guaranteed if children are in different age groups or if space is not available.*

Does your child have any health concerns, special needs or allergies? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I hereby authorize Jefferson Memorial Forest/Metro Parks to take any steps necessary to ensure my child's health in case of an emergency, including seeking medical treatment. My child has permission to go on all camp-sponsored field trips. I understand that transportation will be by van with a staff driver for all field trips.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby authorize Jefferson Memorial Forest/Metro Parks to use my child's name and/or photograph for educational and public relations purposes.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Payment**

☐ Check

Amount paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Number: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Credit Card:

☐ Master Card ☐ Visa

Name on the card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



## Did You Know?

The Natural Areas Division consists of nearly 7,000 acres of park land across Jefferson County. This accounts for nearly 60 percent of the total land owned and managed by Metro Parks.

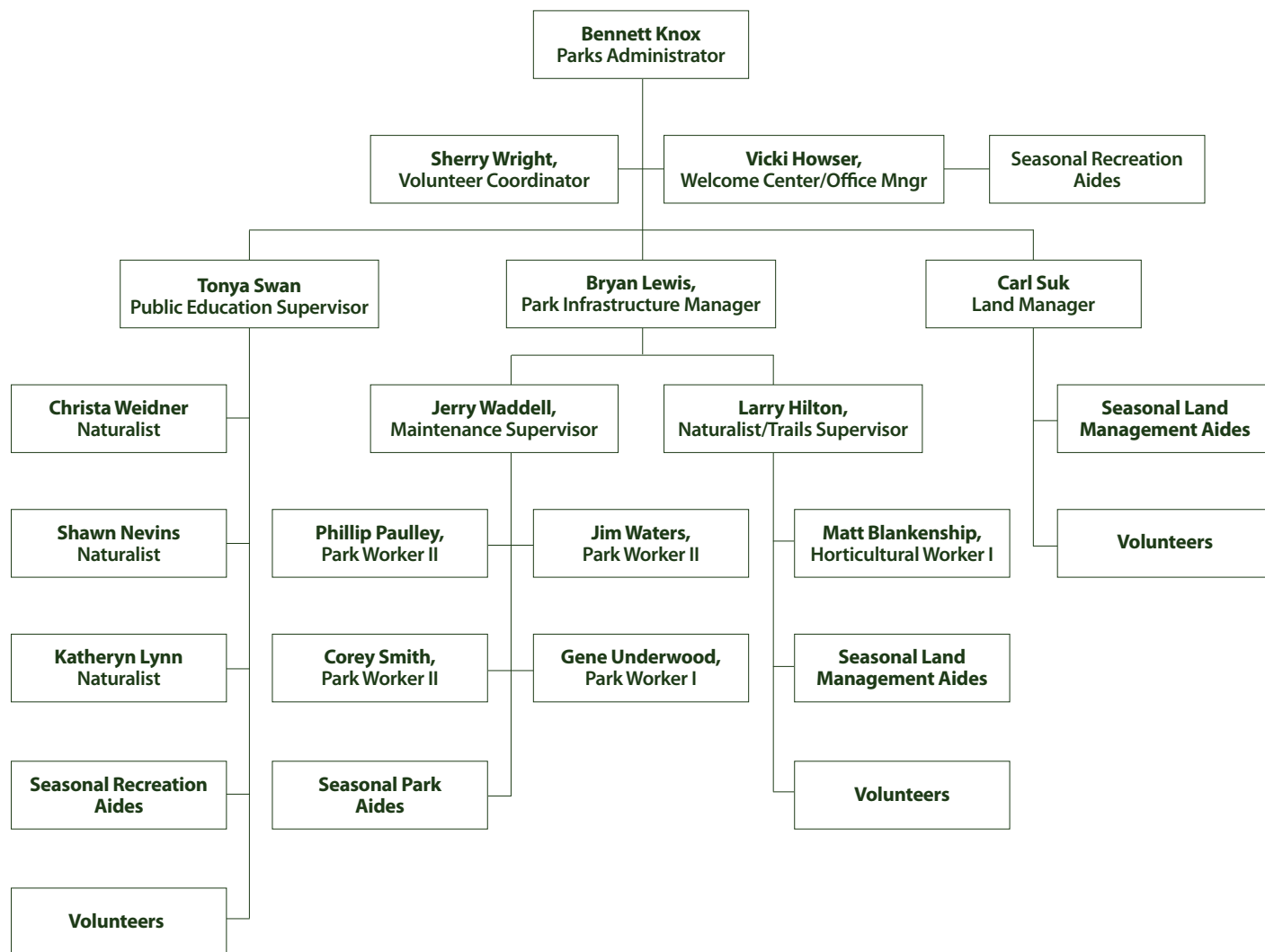
Our trails “crew” consisting of a single supervisor and one park worker is responsible for the design, construction, and maintenance of over 60 miles of marked trail and a substantial amount of unmarked trails. Needless to say, this nearly impossible task would be unspeakable if not for the over 1,200 hours logged by dedicated trail volunteers in 2008.

The Natural Areas maintenance staff of four full-time individuals and a supervisor is responsible for routine maintenance (including mowing and trash collection) within 18 distinct parks and recreation areas, cleaning of eleven associated buildings, and care of two canoe launches, nine ponds or lakes, and their associated dams.

Over 95 percent of this crew’s time is spent on the 250 acres that is dedicated to intensive recreation (less than 5 percent of the Natural Areas Division’s total acreage).

What about the other 6,950 acres, you may ask? Well, we continue to work towards the goal of creating a core of trained entry level staff to increase our ability to address critical land and trail management issues. Doing so is one of our highest priorities for the future. Within the past two years we have been fortunate to hire a Land Manager to develop this side of our operations. Please see the volunteer section to find out more about his recent activities and how you can contribute your time to preserving and enhancing the Jefferson Memorial Forest and other Metro Parks’ natural areas. And if you are interested in donating funds in support of the Jefferson Memorial Forest please contact Andrew Crocker, Metro Parks Development Officer, at 456-1857.

### Natural Areas Division/Jefferson Memorial Forest Organizational Structure







**FREE EVENT!**  
PARKING \$5

**SATURDAY**  
**MAY 16**  
11 AM - 6 PM

# FOREST FEST '09

with Bluegrass Music featuring

**CHERRYHOLMES**  
**HOG OPERATION**  
**STONE HOLLOW ★ BUCK CREEK**  
**WILDWOOD VALLEY BOYS**



**METRO**  
**Parks**



Fairdale-McDaniel  
Funeral Home



**PicPac**



**BYERLY**



**General Shale Brick**  
Building The American Dream





## PUBLIC PROGRAM CALENDAR: APRIL THROUGH MAY

The Forest offers programs for all ages. For more information visit our website at [www.memorialforest.com](http://www.memorialforest.com) or call the Welcome Center at 502/368-5404. Our staff will be happy to help make reservations, give directions to the program location, or provide a complete schedule of programs throughout the year. For all programs, please wear close-toed walking shoes and dress for the weather.

**Reservations are required in advance. The Forest reserves the right to cancel programs due to insufficient registration or inclement weather. Rain checks will be provided.**

### NATIVE GARDENING PROGRAMS

Meet in the Horine Conference Center.  
Fee: \$10 per person (includes materials)

#### GARDENING FOR THE BIRDS WITH THOMAS G. BARNES

**Monday, May 4, 9 a.m. to Noon**

Thomas G. Barnes, an Extension Professor and Extension Wildlife Specialist with the Department of Forestry at the University of Kentucky, will present material from one of his incredible books, Gardening for the Birds. Through the use of native plants you can create a backyard that will attract numerous birds and other wildlife. He will discuss the benefits of native plants and how easily you can create an amazing backyard wildlife haven. If you would like to support the Forest you can purchase his books, Gardening for the Birds, Kentucky's Last Great Places, Wildflowers and Ferns of Kentucky, and his newest, Rare Wildflowers of Kentucky, at a discount of 10% off retail price.

### PRE-SCHOOL NATURE ADVENTURES

Each program has a specific nature theme. This program is for parents and children ages 3 to 5, and includes story-time, craft, snack and active exploration time outside. This program provides experiences in nature for parents and little ones to share. Meets in the Horine Environmental Education Center. Fee: \$9 per child.

### WOODLAND WONDERS

**Saturday, April 11, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.**  
**Tuesday, April 14, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

Hike through the Forest in search of a rainbow of colors from spring flowers. Learn how seeds turn into beautiful wildflowers and how some animals help plants grow.

### THE SMALL POND

**Saturday, May 9, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

**Tuesday, May 12, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

Discover with your child the amazing creatures living in a pond, from tadpoles to dragonflies. Use a net and a bucket to collect a variety of animals from the pond and view them under a magnifying glass. Dress to get messy.

### HOWL AT THE MOON

**Friday, April 17, 7 to 8:30 p.m.**

**Friday, May 15, 7 to 8:30 p.m.**

Come out to the Forest for an evening romp through the woods with your dog! Metro Parks staff will lead owners and their pooches on a hike through the woods. Keep in mind that your dog will be around other dogs and people. Non-retractable leashes and good behavior are required. As a courtesy to other dogs, please make sure your pet is up to date on their vaccines. Meets in the Horine Reservation. Fee: \$6 per dog

### FAMILY FOREST EXPLORERS

This is a series of classes meant to intrigue the young and old alike. Participants receive a Journal of Discovery. Participation is tracked in their Journals and points earned for each session. Prizes will be given at the end of the series to the families with the highest scores. All materials for discovery will be provided. Appropriate for ages 3 and up. Program meets at the Welcome Center. Fee: \$10 per family (limit 4, \$5 for each additional person)

#### RAINBOWS IN THE FOREST – SEARCHING FOR WILDFLOWERS

**Saturday, April 18, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

Come find the rainbow! The Forest offers

a hidden rainbow of colors in the spring. Come out and learn how to find these secret treasures and learn about the many uses of wildflowers.

### THE GREAT FOREST SCAVENGER RACE

**Saturday, May 16, 1 to 4 p.m.**

This event takes place during the Forest Fest – Bluegrass Music Festival. Each participating family member will earn points, and additional points will be earned for correctness of answers and the shortest amount of time it takes to complete the Scavenger Hunt. Winners and prizes will be announced at 4 p.m. on stage by the band! This program will meet at the Forest Children's Tent in the Horine Reservation of the Forest. Fee: (won't they have to pay to park their car?)

### PUBLIC ALPINE TOWER CLIMB

**Saturday, March 28, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

Challenge yourself on our 52-foot Alpine climbing tower. Learn basic climbing and belaying techniques while experiencing increased self-esteem, confidence and problem-solving skills on this "high altitude" obstacle course. This program is for ages 9 and up. A parent or guardian must accompany all participants under the age of 18. Please wear tennis shoes and long pants or shorts (with an inseam at least 5 inches). Sign up early as space is limited! Program meets in the Horine Reservation. Fee: \$10 per person

### GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FOREST HIKE: PURPLE HEART TRAIL, TOM WALLACE LAKE

**Saturday, April 11, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

Explore the trails in Jefferson Memorial





Forest and learn more about the forest in your backyard. Hikes are led by volunteer naturalists.

Dedicated in 2004 to Purple Heart recipients, the Purple Heart Trail offers great views. Hike is 2 miles, considered moderate and will take approximately 1 hour. Begins at the Welcome Center. Fee: \$6 per person

## **FAMILY FISHING FUNDAMENTALS: TOM WALLACE LAKE**

**Saturday, April 25, 9 a.m. to Noon**

Sink a line with us in search of the Forest's wet and scaly wonders. Investigate the aquatic environment of Tom Wallace Lake – the plants, the fish, and their neighbors. Participants will also learn about fishing safety. A great activity for parents and kids ages 7 and up. All children must be accompanied by an adult. All equipment is provided. Program meets in the Welcome Center. Fee: \$10 per family (limit 4, \$5 for each additional person)

## **OUTDOOR SKILLS**

### **ARCHERY**

**Saturday, May 2, 9 a.m. to Noon**

Archery is a great activity that can be shared by the entire family. National Field Archery Association certified staff will introduce you to Olympic-style archery. Learn how to shoot a bow and arrow within minutes. Bow safety will be stressed. This program is for all physical ability levels. All equipment is provided. Children 8 and over are welcome and must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Fee: \$6 per person, includes equipment

## **EVENING PROGRAM**

### **BATS**

**Friday, May 8, 7 to 9:30 p.m.**

A creature stalks Louisville in the darkness, swiftly swooping in on hundreds of victims each night. No need to fear, unless you are a mosquito, as bats only eat bugs in Kentucky! Separate the truth from the myths that surround these beneficial little creatures. Program meets in the

Horine Environmental Education Center.  
Fee: \$6 per person

## **FOREST FEST FAMILY BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL, WITH CHERRYHOLMES**

**Saturday, May 16, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

The fifth annual Forest Fest is set to showcase the hottest bluegrass from local favorites Hog Operation and Stone Hollow, to new favorites the Wildwood Valley Boys and Buck Creek. With international bluegrass stars Cherryholmes, this year will be one of the best. Local crafters and vendors will offer a variety of items for participants to peruse and there will be lots of fun family activities to entertain all ages. This is one of Louisville's best family events! Free Concert – Parking \$5 per car

## **CANOE TRIP ON FLOYDS FORK**

**Saturday, May 30, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

See the beauty of nature as you paddle down Floyds Fork in a guided excursion. All participants must be registered through the Welcome Center in advance; no space is available for individuals showing up on the day of the program. All equipment is provided. Bring a sack lunch. This program is for ages 12 and up. All participants under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. There is space for 18 participants with a maximum number of 12 adults. Canoe programs are subject to change based on water conditions and weather. Program meets at Welcome Center. Fee: \$15 per person.

### **ELIMINATE WASTE AND GET THIS NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL!**

Do your part to save trees and keep our costs down, by emailing [forest@louisvilleky.gov](mailto:forest@louisvilleky.gov) with the request "subscribe to newsletter." Include your name and the mailing address where you received this issue, and you will then only receive electronic copies of future newsletters.

## **CHILDREN IN NATURE**

Now that we are all recovering from the storm clean up you might want to consider saving some of that debris. Trees create an exciting world for children to enjoy. Think back to the times when you were a kid playing outdoors. Trees were your playground. Those fallen branches can be made into shelters, forts, tents, etc. Also, if you have a place to do this, you can leave some of the branches piled in your yard to create bird habitat. Brush piles are great for wildlife!



For those of you who have a little extra energy and creativity, cutting some of those branches into blocks and "cookies" creates natural building blocks for your child to create their own world. Children can create structures and animals, such as this ant.



You can leave a pile for your children to use their imagination and create on their own. Many of today's toys lack the imagination factor. Just about everything talks or moves, leaving little to your child's imagination.

If you want to go a little further, visit the Arbor Day Foundation's website, [www.arborday.org/explore/index.cfm](http://www.arborday.org/explore/index.cfm). There you will find many ideas that will help you create your own nature playground for your children. I feel this is an exciting new way to look at outdoor spaces instead of filling them up with plastic. Especially with all the fallen branches and trees, you now have a free resource to begin. Get outside and enjoy the arrival of Spring! Create with your children and feel like a kid again.



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**Jerry E. Abramson, Mayor**  
Louisville Metro Council



**Metro Parks**  
[www.metro-parks.org](http://www.metro-parks.org)

**Forest/Parks Natural Areas Staff**

**Bennett Knox**  
Parks Administrator

**Brian Lewis**  
Infrastructure Manager

**Tonya Swan**  
Public Education Manager

**Carl Suk**  
Land Manager

**Larry Hilton**  
Naturalist/Trails Supervisor

**Vickie Howser**  
Welcome Center

**Katheryn Lynn**  
Naturalist/Programs Reservationist

**Shawn Nevins**  
Naturalist/Programs

**Jerry Waddell**  
Maintenance Supervisor

**Christa Weidner**  
Naturalist/Programs

**Sherry Wright**  
Volunteer Coordinator

*Winter Volunteer News, continued from page 4*  
from Carl himself, and they enjoy open access to his collection of reading materials. Carl and everyone at the Forest would like to welcome this dedicated crew to the Forest Volunteer Program.

Beginning in March, the Land Stewards will meet the first Saturday, second Wednesday and fourth Thursday of each month. The initial meetings in March (March 7, 11 and 26), will meet at the Horine Conference Center in the Horine section of the Forest, and feature plant identification training from 9 a.m. to approximately 4 p.m. Future gatherings will meet at the Welcome Center at 9 a.m. to head out for on-the-job training.

## **VOLUNTEER NATURALISTS CONTINUE TRAINING**

January 2008 saw the kick-off of our first class volunteer naturalists, who attended weekly 3-hour trainings for three months to earn the title of Volunteer Naturalist. The graduating class of 29 eagerly dove

into work in our education department. This winter, our sophomore naturalists have attended additional trainings, honing their skills in subjects like orienteering, fishing and plant identification.

Persons interested in becoming a volunteer naturalist can volunteer in the education department as assistants to the naturalists until they graduate from the 2010 training class, scheduled to begin in January.

Persons interested in information on any of our outstanding volunteer programs may contact Sherry Wright at 380-1753 or [sherry.wright@louisvilleky.gov](mailto:sherry.wright@louisvilleky.gov), or visit our website at [www.memorialforest.com](http://www.memorialforest.com).

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*The Land, continued from page 4*  
the fourth Thursday of each month. If you want to become a land steward and/or a land steward monitor (what does this part mean – clarify or cut the monitor), call Sherry Wright, volunteer coordinator, at 380-1753.

*Carl Suk, Land Manager*